TINSELTOWN TOASTS THE BEST OF TV

BEST DRAMA ACTRESS CLAIRE DANES AMONG THE STARS TO SHINE AT 64TH ANNUAL EMMY AWARDS PAGE 19

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Big Brother will be watching

Big Brother Canada houseguest hopeful Griffon Burton, right, takes a photo with Hayden Moss, winner of Season 12 of Big Brother's U.S. version, on Sunday morning during the Vancouver auditions for the first Canadian edition of the hit reality show. PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

TV. Hundreds turn out for Vancouver audition for popular reality show

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
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Big Brother called and more than 700 people answered.

The auditions for the first Canadian version of the popular U.S. reality TV franchise kicked off in Vancouver on Sunday, attracting a wide range of people who don't mind living with 13 strangers in a Toronto home filled with hidden cameras and microphones.

Hayden Moss, Season 12 winner of the U.S. Big Brother, chatted with houseguest hopefuls and shared some advice on how you can survive — and hopefully win — the "twisted social game."

"Sometimes you have a strategy in your head, but when you get in there that all goes out the window," the 26-year-old Texan said. "You kind of have to just wait and play the game as it comes to you, analyze things as they happen. You just have to play the best game for you and a lot of times that involves stabbing people in the back."

Griffon Burton of Vernon said he hopes his outgoing personality will win over the producers.

"I really want to be a positive role model," said Burton, 19. "I really want to tell people that it's OK to be plus-sized, you can do this and you can follow your dreams."

Troy Freng, 24, said being honest is his best quality and watching the U.S. show since Season 4 gives him an edge.

"I always play along with the show, strategize in my mind, so I feel like mentally I'll have that ready, knowing the ins and outs of the Big Brother house," he said.

Meanwhile, Haileigh McLean, 26, has already concocted a "secret strategy no one's ever done before" and hopes she gets in the house to test it.

Big Brother Canada is scheduled to air on Slice next winter. The audition tour will continue in Calgary, Halifax, Montreal and Toronto.

Van Dongen quits Tories

Party's lone MLA cites lack of confidence in Cummins PAGE 24

Hope's going Rambo

First Blood festival celebrating legacy of franchise film PAGE 24

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Chilliwack.
Stranded paraglider rescued off mountain

A 25-year-old man was rescued off Mount Cheam near Chilliwack Sunday morning after a paragliding crash that stranded him atop the mountain overnight.

The man spent the night 900 metres up the mountain after he reportedly injured his head and leg.

Capt. Justin Olsen with the Joint Rescue Co-ordination Centre in Victoria said the crash happened Saturday at around 7 p.m.

An Armed Forces helicopter was sent to rescue him, but Olsen said the aircraft had a hydraulic leak and was forced to turn back, leaving the man to spend the night on the mountain.

"Search-and-rescue technicians were hoisted down to him and spent over an hour stabilizing him for the hoist back up to the helicopter," Olsen said of Sunday's rescue. "He was then taken to Abbotsford airport, where B.C. air ambulance was waiting with a critical-care paramedic team on board."

The man has been sent to a Vancouver hospital.

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Abbotsford

Man killed in rollover crash

A man in his 20s is dead after a rollover crash in Abbotsford early Sunday morning. The crash happened around 2:45 a.m. at Vye Road near Sumas Way.

When police arrived, they found a woman lying on the road. The man in the back seat was pronounced dead at the scene. Alcohol and speed are both being considered as contributing factors. YUI SAKIKAWA/FOR METRO

B.C. Conservative Leader John Cummins. DAVID PROCTOR/METRO FILE

Leadership dispute prompts resignation

B.C. Conservatives.
71 per cent of eligible members voted against review for party leader

Even in the tumultuous world of British Columbia politics, the provincial Conservatives had a roller coaster of a weekend.

Weeks of leaked accusations, acrimony and innuendo came to a less-than-definitive end for the party as roughly one-third of eligible members cast ballots on a leadership review.

Of those, 71 per cent voted against a review for B.C. Conservative party Leader and John Cummins, while 29 per cent were in favour.

But his victory was short-lived, as the Conservative's only member with a seat in the legislature quit the party, citing his inability to continue with Cummins at the helm.

"I am turning in my B.C. Conservative party membership," John van Dongen told reporters outside the Langley Events Centre, where 200-plus Conservatives were gathered for the party's annual general meeting.

"I could not in good conscience pretend that I could support John Cummins for a future premier. I don't believe he has the capacity to do the job."

But van Dongen, who will sit as an Independent MLA, said he doesn't regret jumping ship to the provincial Conservatives last March.

"I was prepared to take that risk," he said.

The dispute centred around leadership style and a $4,000-a-month stipend for Cummins, a retired federal Conservative MP.

Cummins described the vote as a procedural issue.

"My name wasn't on the vote. The vote was about process and whether the party thought a leadership review would be essential," he told reporters after a lengthy speech to members. "We're moving on."

Cummins did acknowledge there is some "upset" among those who were pushing for a review but said he said he didn't know what the issues were.

"I can't make heads nor tails. I'm not going to waste my time trying to. We've got an election to fight in eight months and that's what we're focusing on," he told reporters.

In an unfortunate turn of luck, the Conservative party banner behind him buckled and fell to the floor as he spoke.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Liberals

Another veteran Liberal is quitting B.C. politics.

- Vancouver-Quilchena MLA Colin Hansen says he has mixed feelings, but has decided not to seek re-election when the province goes to the polls next May.
- Hansen's departure comes just weeks after a spate of senior MLAs, including Kevin Falcon, George Abbott and Blair Lekstrom, announced they would not run again.

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Empathy but no cash from Liberals

Issues at hand. More than 200 resolutions are up for debate at the UBCM convention

Hundreds of municipal politicians preparing to convince the B.C. Liberal government to help pay for local sewer upgrades, the pothole brigade or memorial gardens can expect a sympathetic ear but little else at a weeklong gathering in Victoria.

Up to 1,500 delegates registered to attend the Union of B.C. Municipalities Convention starting Monday will receive polite but firm rejections of most funding requests, says Bill Bennett, minister of community, sport and cultural development.

The conventions have historically served as occasions for previous Liberal governments to make big financial announcements — removing the tolls on the Coquihalla Highway, introducing smart meters and electrifying northern B.C.

But Bennett says times have changed and saving money, not spending it, is the order of the day. "I won't be saying, 'You're wasting your time, there's no money,"' said Bennett. "What I'll be saying is, 'We want to understand what your needs are. We want to understand what your challenges are.' Then we'll try to help people solve their problem.

"We don't have a lot of money at this point," he said.

More than 200 resolutions are up for debate at the UBCM convention, including decriminalizing marijuana, banning shark fins and cleaning up tsunami debris, but Bennett said the hard issues revolve around funding infrastructure projects.

"They will quite understandably argue that they need more money for the roads and the sewers and the water and the transit. We will say, 'Yes, we know you need that.'

"But, I will also be raising the issue of local government generally trying to keep their expenses down the way the province does," Bennett said. "It will be a good, honest discussion with local government."

Bennett said cities such as Prince George and Penticton have been doing a solid job of managing their expenses. But others, which he did not name, have been giving their workers pay raises and spending a considerable amount of money.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vote on for smorgasbord of issues

With the annual Union of British Columbia Municipalities convention getting underway in Victoria on Monday, local politicians will be voting on no less than 203 resolutions. Here are some of the highlights:

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO
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Coast-guard closures

A couple of resolutions deal with the federal government's cuts to coast-guard services in B.C.'s waters.

The UBCM delegates will vote on whether or not to petition Ottawa to maintain current levels of service at doomed stations (like Vancouver's) and at several radio and traffic-control centres.

Decriminalizing marijuana

Ending prohibition of marijuana is an idea some municipal leaders, including Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson, have already endorsed.

The UBCM will decide whether it wants to present a united voice on the issue and call on governments to decriminalize the drug and look into regulation and taxation schemes.

Capping tanker traffic

Local governments in coastal regions have been concerned about what impacts increased oil-tanker traffic would have on waters.

A resolution, if endorsed, would urge provincial government "to use whatever legislative and administrative means" available to stop the expansion of tanker traffic.

Care for seniors

The City of Vancouver is bringing a resolution urging the provincial government to significantly enhance B.C.'s system of community-based seniors' care.

The resolution stems from the B.C. Ombudsperson's finding that seniors aren't getting timely access to care and that the system is riddled with inadequate co-ordination of services.

National sex-offender registry

Port Edward wants the federal government to change the Criminal Code of Canada so that the national sex-offender registry can be made public. The resolution — using the disappearance of Kienan Hebert in Sparwood, B.C. — says repeat offenders "should forfeit their right and their name be displayed in a public registry."

TransLink funding

Coming off the news that TransLink will roll back planned 2013 service to save money, Maple Ridge is proposing a new "permanent and appropriate long-term funding model." The resolution states TransLink is currently unable to keep up with growing needs under its current funding model.

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At Hope, they drew First Blood ...

Rambo anniversary. One of the biggest franchise films ever made put B.C. on the Hollywood map

MATT KIELTYKA
matt.kieltyka@metronews.ca

Nothing is over!

It's been 30 years since Sylvester Stallone first donned a headband and sweaty muscle shirt, and Hope hasn't been the same since.

First Blood, the first of the Rambo films, was released in 1982 and introduced a new screen icon to Hollywood.

At the same time, it also introduced British Columbia and the District of Hope (where the film was shot) to the world.

"It started right here," said Riley Forman, organizer of the upcoming 30th anniversary Rambo First Blood festival in Hope, Oct. 5 to 8. "The word 'Rambo' is in the dictionary. It's one of the biggest franchise films ever made. It also started putting B.C. on Hollywood's map for film productions."

To celebrate the legacy left behind by the fictional gun-wielding, headband-wearing Vietnam War veteran, thousands of people are expected to visit Hope for a weekend full of film screenings, set visits, guest appearances and look-alike competitions.

The nearby Hells Gate tram is even getting in on the action, letting people dressed up as Rambo take part in its annual pumpkin drop for free on Oct. 8.

Riley says Rambo fans from countries like Japan and the U.K. will take the pilgrimage.

"There are some hardcore fans who are really fanatical about it, they get excited seeing the places from the movies and have tons of Rambo memorabilia at home," Riley said.

"There are seven billion people in the world, you have to think there are a whole lot of Rambo fans out there."

For more information, visit rambo.travelthecanyon.com.

Rambo First Blood 30th Anniversary organizers Brian McKinney and Riley Forman show off their best Rambo face in Hope, B.C. MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

Mounties' legal-bills policy now under scrutiny

Several criminal cases against Mounties in B.C. are facing delays as the RCMP considers whether to pay for defence lawyers, and in some instances legal funding was revoked after it was approved.

It's a legal policy critics complain is too subjective, and places an undue burden on officers who find themselves on the other end of the justice system.

The issue was highlighted in Vancouver last week, when lawyers for four officers charged in connection with their involvement in a high-profile gang investigation told court the force had yet to confirm whether it would pay the Mounties' legal bills.

A separate case involving three RCMP officers and a civilian jail guard in Kamloops — charged over allegations they didn't stop two female inmates having sex while on video surveillance — was delayed in the summer after the officers said the RCMP rejected their funding request.

Those cases, and all others involving RCMP officers, fall under a Treasury Board policy that dictates when the government pays the legal bills for federal public servants. The policy considers whether the officer was acting within the scope of their job and if they were acting in good faith.

But David Butcher, a Vancouver criminal lawyer with extensive experience defending police officers, said the enforcement of that policy has changed over time, leaving officers unable to predict if they'll have to pay for their own lawyer.

"There was a period of several years where it appeared the policy was more liberally applied, and it appears to me that they have reverted back to a stricter interpretation of the policy," said Butcher, who is not involved in either the Vancouver gang case or the Kamloops case.

"There are several unfortunate consequences from the denial of funding. First of all, these cases are not proceeding in an ordinary and expeditious way, when I think everybody in the community has a right to expect that they will."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Approval

- Under the current policy, local divisional headquarters can approve expenses of less than $10,000.
- Anything higher lands on the desk of the RCMP commissioner in Ottawa, but for expenses over $50,000, the minister of public safety has the final say.

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Nuclear tensions. Iran warns of attacks on U.S. bases if war with Israel breaks out

A senior commander in Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guard warned that Iran will target U.S. bases in the region in the event of war with Israel, raising the prospect of a broader conflict that would force other countries to get involved, Iranian state television reported Sunday.

The comments by Gen. Amir Ali Hajizadeh, who heads the Guard's aerospace division, came amid tension over Iran's nuclear program and Israel's suggestion that it might unilaterally strike Iranian nuclear facilities to scuttle what the United States and its allies believe are efforts to build a bomb. Tehran says its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes.

Hajizadeh said no Israeli attack can happen without the support of its most important ally, the United States, making all U.S. military bases a legitimate target.

"For this reason, we will enter a confrontation with both parties and will definitely be at war with American bases should a war break out," Hajizadeh said in remarks that were posted on the website of Iran's state Al-Alam TV. U.S. facilities in Bahrain, Qatar and Afghanistan would be targeted, he said.

The U.S. Fifth fleet is based in Bahrain and the U.S. has a heavy military presence in Afghanistan. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sending a message

The Iranian warning appears to be an attempt to reinforce the potential wider consequences of an attack by Israel.

- The message is not only intended for Washington, but to its Gulf Arab allies that are fearful of a regional conflict that could disrupt oil shipment and cripple business hubs in places such as Dubai and Qatar's capital Doha.

Quoted

"There will be no neutral country in the region ... To us, these bases are equal to U.S. soil."

Gen. Amir Ali Hajizadeh, a senior commander in Iran's Revolutionary Guard

Protesters clash with Greek police at prophet-film rally

Iranian protesters burn a British and a French flag during a demonstration in front of the French Embassy in Tehran, Sunday, to condemn a French magazine caricaturing Prophet Muhammad. VAHID SALEMI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Unrest. Demonstrations also take place in Iran, Pakistan over depictions of Muhammad

Greek riot police used tear gas and pepper spray to disperse Muslim protesters who clashed with officers Sunday during a rally against a film produced in the U.S. that denigrates Islam's Prophet Muhammad. No injuries were reported.

A general strike in Bangladesh shut down schools, transportation and businesses, while a few hundred people peacefully marched in Pakistan. Iranian students burned flags in Tehran to protest the recent publication of lewd caricatures of Muhammad by a French satirical weekly.

In Athens, six people were detained during the demonstration at a central square, police said. About 600 people attended the rally, which featured heated speeches, but was mostly peaceful.

The crowd then wanted to march to the U.S. Embassy, which is about three kilometres away from Omonia Square. Some tried to break through police lines several times, but riot officers pushed them back.

The violence occurred at the end of the rally, when small groups of protesters threw objects at police. Three cars were damaged and three storefronts smashed.

Banners were displayed in English, denouncing the film and calling on the U.S. to hang the filmmaker. One told President Barack Obama "we are all with Osama," referring to Osama bin Laden, the al-Qaida leader who was killed in a U.S. raid in Pakistan in May 2011. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deadly fallout

The amateurish film has sparked violent protests throughout the Muslim world for nearly two weeks.

- The violence linked to protests over the film has resulted in the deaths of at least 49 people, including the U.S. ambassador to Libya.

Security breach probed. Office room broken into while Germany's Merkel held meeting

German police say someone broke into a hotel room that was used as an office of the chancellor's conservative party while Angela Merkel was holding talks in the same building.

Police spokeswoman Antje Roeper said Sunday nothing appears to have been stolen and no explosives were found.

She says Merkel and other party leaders were holding an internal two-day conference near the town of Neuruppin north of Berlin when the incident was discovered Sept. 17. Merkel, the Christian Democrats' chairwoman, was in a meeting on a different floor of the boutique hotel.

Roeper says the room was used as an office to facilitate the conference's organization. No motive has been established as police continue to investigate.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No comment

- A spokesman for Merkel's party declined to comment on the incident.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

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Canadian among missing after avalanche

Nepal. At least nine climbers killed in Himalayan disaster

At least nine people are dead and officials say seven others, including a Quebec doctor, are missing after an avalanche smashed into a climbing expedition on a Himalayan peak in Nepal on Sunday.

The missing Canadian has been identified as cardiologist Dominique Ouimet, 48.

The doctor's sister, Isabelle Ouimet, confirmed his disappearance on the Facebook page of Expes.

In Ottawa, foreign affairs spokeswoman Chrystiane Roy said officials had been in contact with authorities in Nepal.

"We are following the developments closely and stand ready to provide consular assistance should there be a need," Roy said Sunday. "Our thoughts are with the victims (and their families) of this avalanche."

Ouimet was using the Himalayan expedition to raise money for the St-Jerome Regional Hospital north of Montreal and last week did several interviews with the Quebec media.

Police official Basanta Kuwar said the bodies of a Nepalese guide and a German man were recovered Sunday and that rescue pilots had spotted seven other bodies on the slopes of Mount Manaslu in northern Nepal. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the mountain

- The avalanche hit the climbers at a camp at 7,000 metres.
- 231 climbers and guides were on the mountain.
- Weather conditions are unpredictable at this time of year during Nepal's autumn season.

In this photo provided by Nepalese airline Simrik Air, an injured victim of an avalanche is rescued at the base camp of Mount Manaslu in northern Nepal on Sunday. The avalanche swept away climbers Sunday, leaving at least nine dead and seven others missing, officials said.
SIMRIK AIR/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Work hazard. Coal-mine accidents trap 17 miners underground in China

Chinese state media say two coal-mine accidents have trapped 17 people underground.

The official Xinhua News Agency says a fire broke out Sunday in a mine in northeast Heilongjiang province, trapping 11.

Two other people working in the mine were lifted out.

Xinhua says the mine's operating licence had expired three weeks earlier and the county government is blaming illegal production for the accident.

Another mine in the same province was flooded on Saturday, trapping six miners.

Rescue efforts are underway.

China has the world's deadliest coal-mining industry. Safety improvements have reduced deaths in recent years, but safety rules are often ignored and accidents are still common.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this photo released by China's Xinhua News Agency, miners enter the Jiayi Coal Mine in Jidong County of Jixi City, in northeast China's Heilongjiang province on Sunday. Six people were trapped in the mine after it was flooded early Saturday, Xinhua said. XINHUA/XIAO JINBIAO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Belarusian opposition parties boycott parliamentary election

A political stand.
President's 2010 win triggered mass protests

Belarus held parliamentary elections Sunday without the main opposition parties, which boycotted the vote to protest the detention of political prisoners and opportunities for election fraud.

The election will fill 110 seats in parliament, which long has been reduced to a rubber stamp by authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko. He has ruled the former Soviet nation since 1994. Western observers have criticized all recent elections in Belarus as undemocratic.

Preliminary results in the parliamentary vote were expected Monday.

Lukashenko's landslide win in a 2010 presidential election triggered a mass street protest that was brutally suppressed, and any rallies after the parliamentary vote would be certain to draw a similar response.

"Elections in those states where they are boring and peaceful are a good thing for the people, not to mention for the government," Lukashenko said after casting his ballot. But he warned that the calm would not last if the opposition mounted a protest.

"The main show here, as you understand, always begins after the elections, therefore anything can happen, although of course, God forbid that it does," he said. "All sorts of political nonsense always occurs here after the results are announced." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Context

- About 40 opposition candidates still ran.
- Parliament has been occupied by government loyalists since 2004.
- While officials reported a turnout of 66 per cent with two hours of voting remaining, observers said the numbers were inflated, raising suspicions of ballot stuffing.

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko speaks to media at a polling station after voting during parliamentary elections in Minsk, Belarus, on Sunday. SERGEI GRITS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Syria opposition members call for Assad's ouster

A Syrian woman holds a bouquet of flowers and a rebel flag during a rally in Aleppo, Syria, on Friday. MANU BRABO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Syrian opposition figures who reject foreign intervention in Syria's 18-month conflict called for the ouster of President Bashar Assad at a rare meeting Sunday in the nation's capital. The gathering was tolerated by the regime in an apparent attempt to lend credibility to its claims that it remains open to political reform despite its bloody crackdown on dissent.

A senior former Assad ally, meanwhile, said Iran is providing massive support for the embattled Syrian regime.

"Iranians are active in leading positions in the military," former Syrian Prime Minister Riad Hijab, who defected to the opposition last month, told the German daily Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung. "We're not only talking about military aid, but also logistical and economic support" by Iran.

Earlier this month, the top commander of Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guard said the elite unit has high-level advisers in Syria. Iran is also believed to be sending weapons to Syria.

Sunday's conference was attended by diplomats from Iran, Russia and China, Assad's main allies. It was likely to be viewed as a cosmetic gesture by rebels and their international backers.

In recent weeks, Assad's military has escalated airstrikes and shelling of civilian areas to put down an uprising that began in March 2011. Activists say nearly 30,000 people have been killed. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Meeting details

Sunday's meeting was organized by the National Coordination Body for Democratic Change in Syria, or NCB.

- Participants agreed on the idea of "overthrowing the regime with all its symbols," while emphasizing the need for "peaceful struggle."

Capital punishment

U.S. man's execution stalled

Twice over the past year and a half, Cleve Foster has come within moments of being led to the execution room, only to be told the U.S. Supreme Court had halted his scheduled punishment.

On Tuesday, Foster, 48, is scheduled for yet another trip to the death house for participating in the abduction and slaying of a 30-year-old Sudanese woman, Nyaneur Pal, a decade ago near Fort Worth. Foster, a former army recruiter, denies his role in the murder. Prosecutors say DNA ties him to the killing, and that he gave contradictory stories when questioned about Pal's death.

"I did not do it," he insisted recently from a tiny visiting cage outside death row. Appeals again were pending in the courts, focusing on what his lawyers argued was poor legal help both at his 2004 trial in Fort Worth and by attorneys early in the appeals process. Similar appeals resulted in the three previous reprieves. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. elections

Romney targets swing states

Republican challenger Mitt Romney, slipping in the polls in critical swing states, began an intense campaign focus on three of them Sunday with a rally in Colorado, a three-day bus tour in Ohio and a stop in Virginia.

President Barack Obama, who was not campaigning Sunday, won all three of those states in the 2008 election.

With about six weeks remaining before the Nov. 6 election, the handful of so-called swing states appear likely to determine the outcome of what has been an extremely close contest. Those states become even more critical to the Republican candidate as recent polling shows Obama opening a lead in many of them.

Obama entered the weekend with polls showing him in a near tie with Romney, though a new poll shows the president with leads in battleground states Colorado and Wisconsin. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington

Youth at detention centre escape

Six teenage boys escaped from a juvenile detention centre in Washington state after knocking out a female staff member, but all were captured a few hours later early Sunday in nearby woods, authorities said.

The King County Sheriff's department said it received word of the escape at about 11:30 p.m. Saturday from Echo Glen Children's Center in Snoqualmie, about 40 kilometres east of Seattle.

"They basically attacked the staff member, knocked her out, took her keys and fled," spokeswoman Sgt. Cindi West said. The teens left the woman unconscious and locked in a room at the facility, she said.

Witnesses told detectives that the staff member was beaten with a chunk of ice frozen in a water bottle.

The three 14-year-olds and three 15-year-olds were serving time for offences including assault, possession of firearms and burglary, West said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Veterans. Weak case, but Harper government spent $750,000 fighting anyway

The Harper government spent $750,462 in legal fees fighting veterans over the clawback of military pensions, documents tabled in Parliament show.

Federal Liberals have been demanding to see a breakdown of Ottawa's legal costs in the class-action lawsuit launched by veterans advocate Dennis Manuge, of Halifax.

The response was tabled in Parliament last week, but Justice Minister Rob Nicholson refused to release an itemized count, invoking solicitor-client privilege.

Instead, he released a global amount for the lawsuit, which has been dragging its way through the courts since March 2007.

Liberal veterans critic Sean Casey described the legal bill as an "obscene waste of taxpayers' money."

In abandoning the legal fight, the government appointed Stephen Toope, the president of the University of British Columbia, to lead negotiations with Manuge's legal team to arrive at a settlement, including retroactive payments.

Fighting veterans

In siding with veterans last May, Judge Robert Barnes "unreservedly" rejected the government's arguments.

- The class-action lawsuit involved Dennis Manuge of Halifax and 4,500 other disabled veterans whose long-term disability benefits were reduced by the amount of the monthly Veterans Affairs disability pension they receive.
- The ex-soldiers argued it was unfair and unjust to treat pain and suffering awards as income.

The settlement could run as high as $600 million, depending upon how many years back the federal compensation plan will go. Casey said that given the amount of money at stake, he could see the government fighting if it had a strong case: "They had a weak case from the get-go."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Thousands enjoy Breakfast on Stone Bridge

People attend the Breakfast on Stone Bridge event over the Vardar River in downtown Skopje, Macedonia, Sunday. Some 2,300 meals were served during the breakfast. The Stone Bridge is considered a symbol of Skopje, and connects Macedonia Square in the centre of the city to the Old Bazaar.

BORIS GRDANOSKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Big Three talks

Ford workers vote 82% for contract

Ford's unionized Canadian workers have accepted a new contract that was hammered out last week.

The Canadian Auto Workers says 82 per cent of its members who voted this weekend accepted the new contract. The CAW news release did not indicate how many of its 4,500 members at Ford cast ballots. CAW members at General Motors are due to vote on a tentative contract beginning Wednesday. CAW is still in talks with Chrysler.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Veteran journalist

Henry Champ dies at age 75

Veteran broadcast journalist Henry Champ has died. Champ's son says his father died Sunday morning in Washington, D.C. He was 75 and is survived by his wife and five children.

Champ spent the latter part of his career as CBC's Washington correspondent. He also served as CTV's Washington and London bureau chief before moving on to NBC, working in Europe and Washington.

Champ started his career in Brandon, Man., in 1960 and retired in 2008.

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Brazil's latest fashion trend: Conservative Christian garb

Evangelical clothing. Rising population of Pentecostals proud to wear long sleeves and skirts in scorching tropical heat

Strolling down the main shopping drag in a working-class Rio de Janeiro suburb, it's not the second-skin dresses in shocking pink spandex that catch the eye, or even the strapless tops.

The newest look can instead be found in stores like Silca Evangelical Fashion, where the hot items are the demure, long-sleeved frocks with how-low-can-you-go hemlines and the polyester potato sack dresses.

In the birthplace of the dental floss string bikini, so-called evangelical fashion has emerged as a growing segment of Brazil's $52 billion-a-year textile industry, catering to the conservative sartorial needs of Brazil's born-again Pentecostals.

Once so difficult to procure that evangelical women tended to make much of their own clothes themselves, the modest garb is now popping up all over Brazil.

On the street of Rio suburb Itaborai, two evangelical clothing stores compete to dress the faithful. M&A Fashion got its start two decades ago, and Silca Evangelical Clothing, two doors down, opened in March.

"Evangelical women now wear this clothing proudly," said M&A manager Marcelo Batista.

Evangelical specialty clothing lines are also attracting nonbelievers. Batista estimates that 40 per cent of the store's clients are not evangelicals.

"It's so hard ... to find clothes that aren't too short or don't show a lot of cleavage that women who aren't comfortable with showing a lot of skin shop here too," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A saleswoman adjusts a mannequin wearing a dress by the Brazilian brand Kauly, which markets itself as "Moda Evangelica," or "Evangelical Fashion," behind a shop window in Sao Paulo, Brazil. ANDRE PENNER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A brief history

An influx of evangelicals

Introduced in the mid-19th century by American missionaries, Brazil's neo-Pentecostal churches were long regarded as fringe groups. Aggressive proselytizing, particularly among the poor, has produced a dramatic spike in the community's numbers in recent decades.

In 1980, evangelicals represented just over six per cent of the population. In the 2010 census, more than 42 million people, or 22 per cent of the country, identified themselves as evangelicals. Some statisticians predict that if current trends hold, evangelical Christians could become the majority by 2030.

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YOU CAN REFER YOURSELF

Mateo Compton Moscoso, 3, and his father Paul Compton. Compton has been fighting for nearly three years to obtain Canadian citizenship for Mateo. A change in citizenship rules before his youngest son was born abroad means Mateo can't be considered Canadian. THE CANADIAN PRESS/CONTRIBUTED

New citizenship rules put some children born abroad in a bind

Frustration. Ontario native looks to England for citizenship for son after Ottawa changes regulations

Paul Compton is at his wits' end.

The Ontario native has spent nearly three years trying to obtain Canadian citizenship for his younger son with little success and now feels abandoned by his country.

After multiple appeals to politicians and much wrangling with public servants, the 42-year-old is now applying for British citizenship in an attempt to establish a sense of security for his child. But he feels like he's giving up a part of his Canadian identity in the process.

"I don't know what else to do at this point, I've hit a wall," he told The Canadian Press.

Compton is among an unknown number of Canadians caught in a web of regulatory changes made to the Citizenship Act in 2009.

His problems stem from the fact that he was born in Scotland — while his Canadian parents were in university — and his second son was also born abroad, four months after the government imposed a first-generation limit on citizenship by descent for those born outside the country.

That meant Compton's first son, who was born abroad before the regulations changed, is a Canadian, but his younger child, three-year-old Mateo, is not.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"Who are these undeserving citizens?... This is all based on a hypothetical problem."

Audrey Macklin, University of Toronto law professor

Washington, D.C.

Giant panda dies

The giant panda cub born a week ago at the National Zoo in Washington has died, and it was not immediately known why the animal died, zoo officials said Sunday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cookstown, Ont.

Loose bull put down

Police say a bull spotted running loose around fields near a highway north of Toronto was put down Sunday after escaping from a nearby stockyard.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sky's the limit? Report alleges northern nurses used medical flights to shop

Staff at a remote First Nations nursing station arranged expensive emergency medical flights — on the federal government's dime — to go grocery shopping in a more populated community, a newly released document alleges.

A special report by Health Canada investigators sets out troubling allegations about the conduct of staff at the Poplar Hill nursing station in northern Ontario, and about a small airline from which the Canada Revenue Agency is still trying to recover a sizable amount of money. The RCMP has also been asked to step in.

The claims are brought to light as part of a months-long investigation by The Canadian Press into allegations of wrongdoing by service providers of the federal government's health plan for aboriginals.

The Non-Insured Health Benefits program provides health-benefit coverage to eligible First Nations people and Inuit when they are not insured by private or provincial plans. The NIHB program also covers travel costs when aboriginals need medical treatment but cannot receive it in their home communities.

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Clement had 'ghostwriter' for Twitter town hall

Twitter table. Treasury Board president also had two subject matter experts, two communications staff and a moderator

Tony Clement
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

Tony Clement may be king of social media in political circles on Parliament Hill, but he didn't get to be mayor of his own Twitter town hall.

During an online chat on the subject of open government, the Treasury Board president, who is a prolific tweeter, had a ghostwriter doing most of the work for him.

Last December's town hall made federal political history as the first online chat hosted by a cabinet minister using the microblogging service.

Clement is regularly ranked among Parliament Hill's top tweeters and lauded by social media watchers as having a natural touch with the technology. But when it came to formally engaging with Canadians, bureaucracy ground his freewheeling ways to a stop.

An analysis on the town hall obtained by The Canadian Press under Access to Information legislation highlights the struggle facing MPs seeking to use social media tools in a world of tightly controlled communications.

The two 45-minute chats — one in English, one in French — took more than a month to organize.

Three dry runs were held ahead of the main event, with staff even creating bogus Twitter accounts in order to practise using the service.

More than 40 stock responses were drafted so they could be quickly copied and pasted to reply to questions, while a ghostwriter was engaged to get Clement's responses out faster.

"I should point out too that the minister did take to the keyboard himself for a few responses — he does like to get hands-on sometimes," Sean Osmar, a spokesman for Clement, said in an email.

The chat didn't happen over the government's standard Internet connections.

Staff used mobile Internet technology in order to bypass any possible network filters, according to the report.

One of the sticking points among public servants is the lack of access many have to social media tools, with government servers in several departments routinely blocking blogs, Facebook and file sharing sites.

During the Summer Olympics, one department shut down video sites for fear that public servants would spend too much time watching events.

Other tools are blocked for security risks; Treasury Board and the Finance Department fell prey to hackers last year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cat mistakenly euthanized

A Massachusetts woman says her cat went to the veterinarian for a flea bath and was mistakenly euthanized instead.

Colleen Conlon of Gardner is grieving the loss of eight-year-old Lady, whose death she attributes to negligence by the vet, Muhammad Malik.

Her son took Lady to an animal hospital last week and unknowingly authorized the cat to be put to sleep after he says he was handed the wrong forms. He says he learned of the mix-up when he returned with a second cat and the vet asked whether he wanted to keep the bodies.

Conlon has filed a complaint with the attorney general.

Malik's lawyer tells the Telegram & Gazette that people should wait to hear all the facts before passing judgment and that he expects more information to come out. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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iPhone 5. Most U.S. stores sell out during first weekend

It was possible to walk into a U.S. store on the weekend and buy an iPhone 5, but it took some hunting. Some stores reported having Apple's newest phone available for walk-up customers, though not all versions of it. A random check of about a dozen stores indicated that most were sold out.

A Verizon store in New York City said the 32 and 64 gigabyte models, but not the 16 GB version, were available. A Sprint store in a suburb of St. Paul, Minn., said all but the most expensive 64 GB iPhone 5s were sold out. "Before we were even scheduled to open, we were pretty much out," said Eric Rayburn, a worker at a Sprint store in Phoenix, Ariz.

The iPhone 5 went on sale Friday, igniting intense interest around the world.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sales figures

- On Monday, Apple is expected to announce early results from the iPhone 5's first day of retail sales.

E. coli concerns

Ground beef recall expanded further

The recall of ground beef from Edmonton-based producer XL Foods is being expanded yet again.

The recall due to possible E. coli contamination was announced by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency a week ago and has since been expanded six times. It affects ground beef sold by Sobeys, Foodland, IGA, and Douglas Meats stores in the Prairie provinces, Ontario, the Maritimes and some Big Way and Super A stores.

Now it also includes unlabelled ground beef products sold between Aug. 24 and Sept. 16 at stores which may include small retailers, local meat markets and butcher shops.

The agency advises consumers who are unsure if they have the affected product to check with the stores where they purchased the beef, or simply throw it out.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Gamers need not apply: New simulator puts safety first

VIRTTEX facility. Ford's virtual reality lab lets researchers monitor bad driving habits

Most car-themed video games challenge players to race as fast as they possibly can, and push dangerous driving to the limit without crashing.

So test subjects who step inside Ford's high-tech VIRTTEX research facility can be forgiven for wanting to stomp the gas pedal in the video game-like driving simulator. But most don't and try their best to stay alive.

In an effort to prevent car crashes in the real world, Ford has designed an incredibly life-like way to test drivers' skills and simulate dangerous situations that could end in death on the roads.

Within a research and development building in Dearborn, Mich., the former hometown of Henry Ford and where the automaker is headquartered, lies the VIRTTEX — short for Virtual Test Track Experiment.

A test driver goes behind the wheel of Ford's VIRTTEX, a safety simulator that analyzes drivers' skills and reactions to dangerous situations on the road. FORD CANADA/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Inside a seven-metre-diameter domed laboratory is what appears to be a standard Ford vehicle. But a close inspection would reveal its engine and transmission have been removed and it has been equipped to tie into an elaborate virtual reality simulator.

Video screens envelope the inside of the domed structure, giving test subjects a simulated 360-degree view of a driving environment. Peeking at all the mirrors reveals accurate views of what you'd expect to see while driving.

Once the simulation has begun, the VIRTTEX structure can move up to three metres side to side or front to back, and two metres vertically, to simulate the motion and feel of actually driving. The steering wheel realistically rumbles just right and sound is pumped into the vehicle to replicate engine and road noise. The wheel and pedals are just as responsive as in any car.

Before long, drivers get lost in the virtual world and feel like they're really driving down a long, open road. And then researchers can start observing all their bad habits. The speeders get identified pretty quickly.

The other cars on the road "are programmed to go five to 10 miles per hour (eight to 16 km/h) faster than you, so we quickly find out what kind of driver people are," says Ford's Mike Blommer.

"If they want to keep up with traffic ... those drivers keep speeding up and the next thing you know you're going 80 to 85 miles per hour (almost 140 km/h)."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"We get some really realistic reactions out of people." Ford's Mike Blommer

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FIRING BACK AT PARK ARSONIST

URBAN COMPASS
Paul Sullivan
vancouver@metronews.ca

Someone's trying to burn down my park.

Well, it's not actually my park, but as I spend up to five days a week running around its majestic pathways, it sure feels like my park.

I'm not alone. Each dawn reveals a host of Stanley Park regulars — the tai chi people, the gangs of friendly dog-walkers, morning hikers, runners and cyclists — who own the park in the morning, a time when there's plenty of space and silence.

Then there are the creatures who actually do own the park — the herons, skunks, raccoons, coyotes, and squirrels. These days, there are even beavers in Beaver Lake.

Too bad there's someone else lurking in the early-morning shadows; a troll (or trolls) who for some twisted reason, wants to burn down the park. So far this year, arsonists have targeted the little train station, the horse stables, Brockton Oval and Malkin Bowl.

You could say it's a relief that no one has been hurt, but that's not true. Lots of people have been hurt. Hurt that anyone would try to damage one of the world's most treasured places, hurt because they are afraid to walk through the trails by themselves, hurt by a loss of peace and serenity.

Wildness under attack

The park is subject to enough stress as it is ... without the unnatural stress of a maniac with matches. Whatever we can do to keep it safe needs to be done.

I wonder if the twisted puppy who tried to burn down the Brockton Oval clubhouse the other day knows or cares that his single act has discouraged a group of morning runners who have met there for years and until now, nothing has kept them from their morning rounds.

Of course, I know the answer. People like that are devoid of empathy, and care only about expressing their smouldering resentment, so therefore they need to be warded off. Which means turning the park into something it never should be — a high-security camp with surveillance cameras, security guards, and barbed-wire fences, locks and key cards.

If you own even a single happy moment from Stanley Park, you will see the necessity. The park is subject to enough stress as it is — from windstorms to invasive species — without the unnatural stress of a maniac with matches. Whatever we can do to keep it safe needs to be done.

I wonder if we really understand what we have in Stanley Park. A 10-minute jog from the corner of Burrard and Georgia and you enter a wildness in the heart of the city; not all the way to wilderness, but an invigorating, uplifting wildness in our midst. That wildness has survived everything civilization has so far thrown its way yet is now in danger from a single misguided individual.

Something critical is at stake here, and it's up to us. Save the park, save the city. It's that simple.

Shutting down the freeway

L.A. hopes to head off a-car-polypse one more time

Carmageddon II — the sequel — is coming to one of the most crowded U.S. freeways, and authorities are hoping its subtitle won't be The Traffic Strikes Back.

Transportation officials say what they would like to see during the last weekend of September is a rerun of last year's two-day closure, when hundreds of thousands of motorists dodged doomsday predictions by staying away until the busy, 16-kilometre stretch of Interstate 405 reopened.

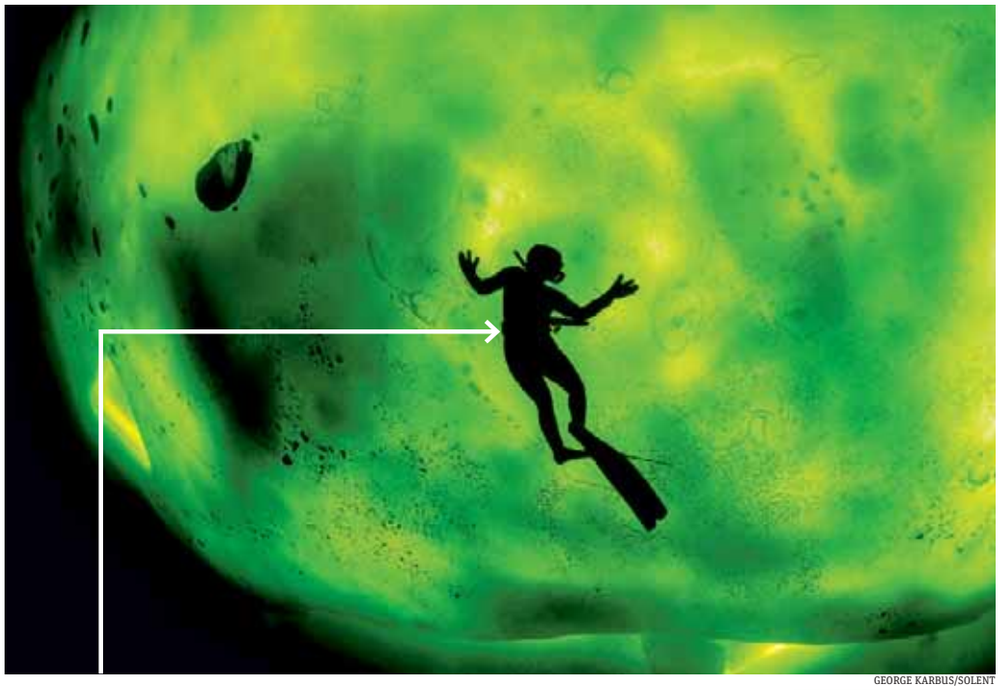
It was one of the lightest freeway traffic weekends anyone in Los Angeles could remember.

Hopes are high that next weekend will have the same happy result, as businesses and residents prepare to avoid the roadway that must close again so work can be completed on a bridge.

At Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, just outside the Carmageddon Zone, officials plan to house as many as 300 doctors, nurses and other staff members in dorms at nearby hotels so nobody will have trouble getting to work.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alien world in the Arctic abyss



GEORGE KARBUS/SOLENT

Underwater photo

Otherworldly shot of northern lights

It's the northern lights, but like you've never seen before.

This shot by photographer George Karbus shows a diver's silhouette against the backdrop of aurora borealis, seen through a thick sheet of ice in the cold waters of the Arctic Circle.

"Cold, beauty, adventure" — the three words that encapsulate his image, Karbus said, adding his biggest ambition is, "to capture beauties of our fragile world and show everyone the real treasures of life." METRO

Q & A

'Just too beautiful'

Photographer George Karbus, 33, from Lahinch, County Clare, Ireland, talks to Metro.

Where did you take this image?
The White Sea in Russia, inside the Arctic Circle. It took two days by train to get to the spot by the White Sea. My girlfriend Kate Hamsikova and I set out with a guide on a snowmobile. We went diving after cutting through ice about one metre thick. One dive I noticed that Kate was upside down just under the ice pretty far from the hole we cut out, playing with little bubbles. I dove down for about eight metres to get this beautiful perspective of ice formation with Kate's silhouette.

Part of me wanted to enjoy the lights without taking photographs, but it was too hard to resist. It was just too beautiful.

What was the biggest challenge for you?
The cold water at around -2 C. Also, for the picture we dove without any rope lines. Normally when you're diving you need a rope so that you know where to return to, so it can be quite dangerous without it.

GEORGE KARBUS
Photographer

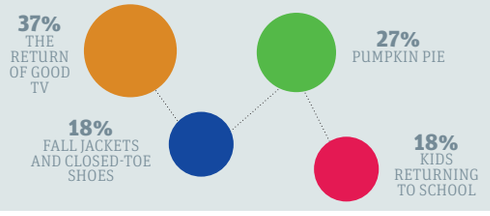
Photo in detail

- **Equipment used.** Karbus wore a 7 mm freediving wet suit and used a Nikon D700 with a fisheye lens inside a Subal underwater housing device.
- **Water fan.** "I love the ocean and like to be there every day," said Karbus, who lives in Lahinch on the Atlantic coast. "I like to use my physical abilities and get with my camera in extreme angles to photograph big marine creatures."

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

It's officially fall — what are you most excited about?



Twitter

@D6MERIT:
Coming soon to the theaters of Broadway! A new drama straight from the sidelines called: HARBAUGH. #callyourboxoffice

@BrentToderian:
Off to give bike tour of Vancouver's Downtown + SeaWall to group of 45 #Copenhagen architects+urbanists from the Danish Architecture Centre!

@grahamclark:
Tomorrow night, 8:00 at the Havana I will be giving away the only air filter endorsed by George Burns: http://www.retrojunk.com/content/commercial/17250/index/ ...

@wanderu:
At risk of repeating myself: affordable housing = old buildings, not new. Want more affordable housing? Renovate more old buildings. #WACB

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Christina Hendricks of Mad Men. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Zooey Deschanel of New Girl. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TV stars sizzle on the Emmy red carpet

Ceremony. Louis C.K. wins award for best comedy writing; Modern Family racks up awards for best supporting actors and director in a comedy

Sofia Vergara ramped up the sizzle Sunday night on the Emmy Awards red carpet that already had TV's biggest stars talking about just how hot they were because of the sweltering temperatures in Los Angeles.

Vergara wore a teal-coloured gown by Zuhair Murad with beads all over and a cut-out reverse halter neckline.

She helped fuel the trend toward bright, bold colour that was also worn by pregnant Claire Danes in strapless daffodil-yellow Lanvin, Julianne Moore in a long-sleeve, stretchy gown and Nicole Kidman in a blue-on-white-beaded gown. All brought bonafide fashion credibility to the Nokia Theatre, but they weren't necessarily the favourites.

New Girl star Zooey Deschanel had a manicure with little TV sets on her thumbnails — perhaps the kind of thing "E!" had in mind for its mani-cam that had stars walking their fingers down a tiny red carpet.

Celebrities build their fashion reputation largely from the red carpet, designer Monique Lhuillier said, and they'll influence trends for colour, silhouette and embellishments.

Lhuillier said Emmy gowns were already in the works this month when she presented her most recent catwalk collection, one in which she declared "the ballgown is gone." Instead, she focused her full-length dresses in mermaid and other sleeker hemlines.

As for the winners, they included Eric Stonestreet for best supporting actor on Modern Family; Louis C.K, for his writing on the comedy series Louis; and Julie Bowen, for best supporting actress on Modern Family. Modern Family also won best directing of a comedy series, while Julia Louis-Dreyfus nabbed best actress for her work on HBO's Veep, and Jon Cryer of Two and a Half Men won the best male lead in a comedy series.

In the reality TV category, Tom Bergeron of Dancing With the Stars was declared the best host. Claire Danes won best actress in a drama series for Homeland, which also picked up an award for best writing in a drama series.

Meanwhile, Aaron Paul of AMC's Breaking Bad won best supporting actor in a drama series.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jonn Hamm of Mad Men and his girlfriend, Jennifer Westfeldt. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Amy Poehler of Parks and Recreation. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lena Dunham, creator of Girls. GETTY IMAGES

Kenley Collins THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SCENE

On the web

For more red carpet looks and a complete list of Emmy-award winners, scan the code above or go to metronews.ca.

Seeing the world in West Coast light

VIFF. Festival is a reflection of Vancouver — outward looking, multicultural, well-educated and with a social conscience

If shoes, they could be considered a pair of sturdy hiking boots to Toronto's Manolos.

But the Vancouver International Film Festival embraces its laid-back, West Coast vibe, and will get underway this week far from the bright lights and big stars with an impressive line-up of 380 films from 75 countries.

The two festivals are very similar "in many of the essential ways," says Alan Franey, VIFF festival director.

"But TIFF has a unique function in the market economy in that it is sort of a proxy Hollywood festival that happens on Canadian soil," he says.

"That tends to eclipse what is still at the heart and soul of the Toronto festival, as it is any festival worth its salt around the world. We're all essentially trying to do the same thing: the old spirit of an international festival of quality cinema."

The festival that runs from Sept. 27 to Oct. 12 in Vancouver is a reflection of the host city, he says: outward looking, multicultural, well-educated, and possessing social conscience.

"Interested in travelling, too, and for a lot of people the festival represents a way to see the world in a very affordable, convenient way," Franey says.

Indeed, this year's line-up takes moviegoers from the battlefields of Congo to the bedrooms of Indonesia.

The Dragons & Tigers series is the largest annual exhibition of East Asian films outside of Asia, featuring established and emerging filmmaking talents from South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand. The annual $5,000 Dragons & Tigers Award for Young Cinema will be awarded to a new director from East Asia.

Leo Fo, a senior producer at Saturday Sneak Preview for the Chinese-language Fairchild Television in Vancouver and a self-professed movie fan, said the festival offers a good taste of Asian film.

"People are curious to see cinema from other countries, to see what they have, and the festival is a good opportunity to see those films because outside of the festival a lot of these films are not very easy to find," he says.

In comparison to European and North American movies, Asian films tend to be very visceral, visual experiences served best by a big screen, Fo says.

"I don't think they would compare in budget to big Hollywood films in any way, but the way they tell stories is very interesting and the visual compositions are more interesting; the use of colour and all that are very different," he says.

"In Vancouver, if you want to see films from Asia you usually see them on a small screen, a computer or a TV. But it's nice to see those films on a big screen."

Quoted

"We're all essentially trying to do the same thing: the old spirit of an international festival of quality cinema."

Alan Franey, VIFF festival director
On the universal appeal of a film festival, regardless of whether it's Cannes, Sundance TIFF or VIFF.

VIFF also prides itself on giving Canadians a chance to see homegrown cinema in its 100-strong Canadian Images series. One of the best-attended of the festival, the Best Canadian Feature Film receives a $10,000 juried prize that will be announced at the closing gala Oct. 12.

Among the 12 films in the running is Rebelle, Montreal-born Kim Nguyen's film about child soldiers in Africa and Canada's entry for best foreign-language Oscar this year.

Deepa Mehta's highly anticipated new film, Midnight's Children, based on the Pulitzer-Prize winning book by Salman Rushdie, will open the festival this Thursday. The lineup includes many films that have won prizes at major festivals this year, among them Amour, the Michael Haneke film awarded the Palme d'Or at Cannes.

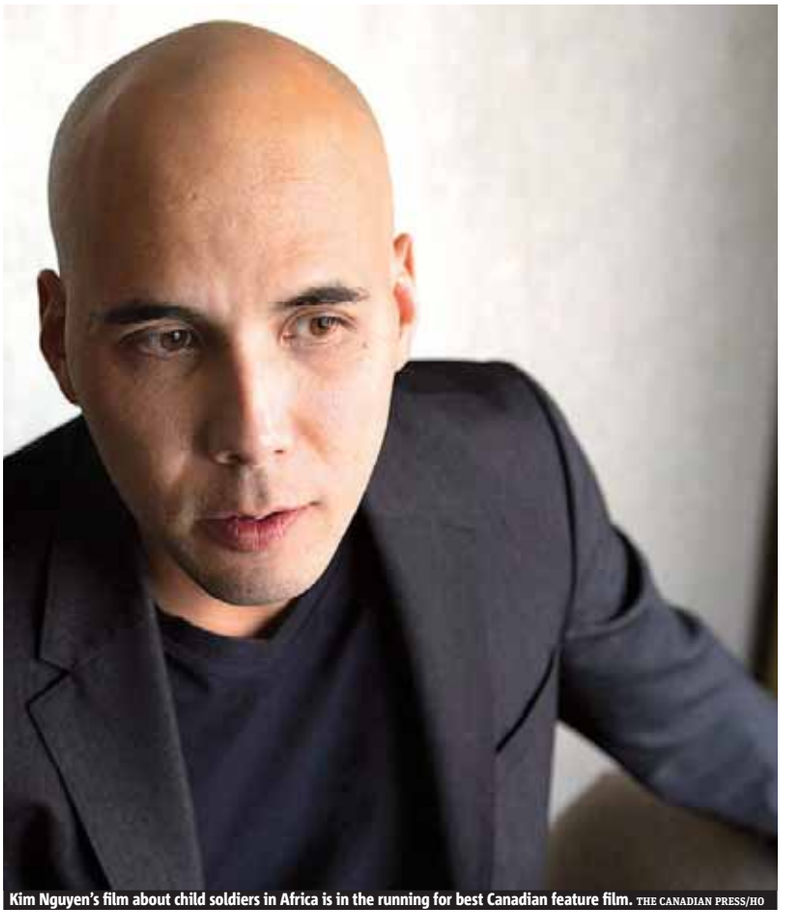
Moviegoers will also have the chance to see Rust & Bone, the French film based on the collection of short stories by Canadian author Craig Davidson, starring French actress Marion Cotillard.

"We always see ourselves as a complementary opposite to what's on screen throughout the year," Franey adds.

"This is a time of the year where a lot of Canadians see our own cinema, not just here in Vancouver but at TIFF and in Montreal... where people can really see the world and hear our own stories, because we are, after all a very mulitcultural society so we get to learn about the fabric of our own cities."

The Vancouver festival also includes an industry forum that brings script writers, directors and industry insiders to the city for professional development and pitch sessions.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Kim Nguyen's film about child soldiers in Africa is in the running for best Canadian feature film. THE CANADIAN PRESS/HO

VIFF Fast Facts

Lights, Camera, Action!

History. Founded in 1982, The Greater Vancouver International Film Festival Society (VIFF) is a not-for-profit cultural organization that operates the internationally acclaimed Vancouver International Film Festival, the annual Film + Television Forum and the year-round programming of the Vancity Theatre at the Vancouver International Film Centre.

Stats. Both in terms of admissions and number of films screened (152,000 and 386 respectively in 2011) VIFF is among the five largest film festivals in North America.

COURTESY VIFF.ORG

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A PASS FOR TWO TO THE SPECIAL ADVANCE SCREENING OF SINISTER

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You Could WIN A PAIR OF TICKETS to the next VANCOUVER WHITECAPS FC home match on Sunday, September 29!
VANCOUVER WHITECAPS FC
To register and for full contest details visit clubmetro.com

Everyone is leaving Amanda Bynes

Things don't seem to be getting any better for Amanda Bynes. After being pulled over at the Burbank airport last week and having her car impounded, the actress has been charged with two counts of driving on a suspended license, according to TMZ.

On top of that, the troubled former child star was reportedly dropped by her agent, publicist and lawyer — all within the last few weeks — because she'd become "extremely difficult" this year. But a source close to Bynes says the actress isn't worried, since she's looking to transition from acting to fashion anyway.

Twitter

@TheRealNimoy
Senor Quinto. Dinner soon?

@ZacharyQuinto
sunset between highland and crescent is really its own particular brand of crazy.

@jackiejcollins
Channing Tatum is good to look at

@SarahKSilverman
Dear men, I love you to pieces. So trust me when I tell you you've gotta stop wearing cologne immediately

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Me Tarzan, you gum chewer

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

It's all gum all the time for Kellan Lutz — with a few starring roles thrown in.

Last Wednesday, the Twilight star popped up at Helen Mills, a theatre and event space in New York, to launch his latest endeavor: Being the enthusiastic spokesperson for iD gum, a new brand of the chewy stuff that's geared to teens.

"Who would have thought 10, 20, 50 years ago that gum would be an accessory? Now it is. Now it's cool to show that you have gum versus hiding a piece of gum for your breath. Now it's like, 'Oh you've got some iD gum?'" the actor asked philosophically.

The collaboration between Lutz isn't just for profit, mind you. "I only want to stay true to my brand and do great quality products, which this is. I'm a huge fan of the gum. I love gum," he told a group of reporters about his decision to lend his name to iD.

Dude loves gum, am I right? So much so that even when we were able to get him off message to talk about what's next for his career, we couldn't help but read in between the lines (quotes in bold belong to The Word).

"It's bittersweet," he says about the end of Twilight **(and possibly a new flavour of gum)**. He continued: "It feels like a closing of a chapter but in a way it's like your last days of high school — you're really looking forward to college and I'm really looking forward to that **(like I'm looking forward to this piece of iD gum)**. It's been great having my own project now, to **(chew delicious gum and)** be the lead in Tarzan **(a character who wasn't fortunate enough to be alive when gum was so accessible, but I think he chewed on pine bark of some sort)**. Hopefully we can franchise that. It's going to be great **(just like this piece of iD gum I'm waiting to chomp on)**."

WITH ADDITIONAL REPORTING BY OLIVIA MORROW

Lady Gaga

Gaga talks weight, dad's new restaurant

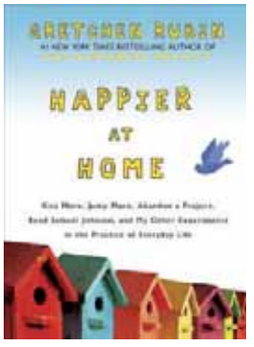
Lady Gaga admits that she's put on some weight lately, but she's not stressing out about it. "I'm dieting right now because I gained, like, 25 pounds," she says in a radio interview, according to the Huffington Post. "And you know, I really don't feel bad about it, not even for a second." While she's had a rather hectic tour schedule, she says part of the cause may be closer to home. "I love eating pasta and pizza. I'm a New York Italian girl," Gaga says. "That's why I have been staying out of New York. My father opened a restaurant. It's so amazing, it's so freaking delicious, but I'm telling you I gain five pounds every time I go in there."

LIFE 3

Looking for ways to bring more joy to life at home? Clean up

Gretchen Rubin is the author of Happier at Home. SUBMITTED

Book. Gretchen Rubin, author of the Happiness Project, is back with a new book, Happier at Home. The following is an excerpt from the book.



For me, fighting clutter is a never-ending battle; although I'd labored to clear clutter as part of my first happiness project, I was eager to find additional strategies to stop its insidious progress. Inspired by William Morris's rousing call to "Have nothing in your houses that you do not know to be useful, or believe to be beautiful," I resolved to "go shelf by shelf," then drawer by drawer, then closet by closet, to consider each of our possessions.

Did one of us use it or love it? Would we replace it if it were broken or lost? If so, was it in the right place? If not, why keep it?

Years ago, I started keeping a list of my Secrets of Adulthood — the large and small lessons I'd mastered as I'd grown up. Recent additions included:

• Just because something is fun for someone else doesn't mean it's fun for me.
• It's enormously helpful, and surprisingly difficult, to grasp the obvious.
• You need new friends and old friends.
• The quickest way to progress from A to B is not to work the hardest.
• It's easier to prevent pain than to squelch it (literally and figuratively).
• Where you start makes a big difference in where you end up.
• The opposite of a profound truth is also true.
• A change is as good as a rest.
• It's more important to say something than to say the right thing.
• The best reading is rereading.

One of the most helpful of these Secrets of Adulthood holds that "Outer order contributes to inner calm." Why is this true? Perhaps it's the tangible sense of control, or the relief from visual noise, or the release from guilt. In the span of a happy life, having a messy desk or an overflowing closet is clearly trivial, and yet creating order gives a disproportionate boost of energy and cheer. (Of all the resolutions that I've proposed, which one do people most often mention that they've tried, with great success? The resolution to "Make your bed.") EXCERPTED FROM HAPPIER AT HOME. COPYRIGHT 2012 GRETCHEN RUBIN. PUBLISHED BY DOUBLEDAY CANADA, AN IMPRINT OF THE DOUBLEDAY CANADA PUBLISHING GROUP, WHICH IS A DIVISION OF RANDOM HOUSE OF CANADA LIMITED. REPRODUCED BY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE PUBLISHER. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Read it

Happier At Home is available at bookstores everywhere and Randomhouse.ca

Exclusively online

metronews.ca/voices

- **The name game.** How do you choose a baby name that's original but easy to pronounce, sophisticated but unpretentious, and would look good on the ballot for Prime Minister? Follow along with the comedic (mis) adventures of mommyhood online with Reasons Mommy Drinks at metronews.ca/voices

Before you pack up the fam and hit the road...

IT'S ALL RELATIVE
Kathy Buckworth,
kathybuckworth.com

Family travel is a great way to combine fun and learning for both adults and children. While no one can guarantee your family vacation will be perfect, try to ensure you make the most of it by taking the time to plan ahead.

Make sure you mix the historic (learning) and the hysteric (fun):

• Check out the school curriculum before planning a trip and see if there is a fit to what the kids are studying (geography, history, learning about currencies, etc.)

• Get some appropriate age level (fiction and non-fiction) books about where you're travelling, and read them together.

• Introduce some typical foods of the country you're going to visit, prior to going, so they seem somewhat familiar to the kids when you get there. This will help them gobble up local cuisine without complaint.

• Visit the websites for the tourism boards of the places you're going, and if you can, the hotels you'll be staying at.

• Pick out a few local customs (like shoes off in Japanese households) and explain how they came about, and why they are important to the residents of that country.

• Prepare a short (age appropriate) quiz for the car or plane ride about where you're going to go, and afterwards, what you saw.

KATHY BUCKWORTH IS AN AWARD WINNING WRITER. VISIT KATHYBUCKWORTH.COM/ OR FOLLOW KATHY ON TWITTER @KATHYBUCKWORTH

Have fun with the entire family on vacation by following a few simple steps. ISTOCK

On the web

Qriket

Scan this code or visit metronews.ca/voices to find out why choosing a baby name is one of the most stressful things about being pregnant.

Retire the chicken-noodle combo and give trout a taste

Several thousand years ago, people discovered that exposing fish to intense amounts of salt and smoke was a great way of preserving the catch for later.

Today, our smoking techniques are considerably more refined, and we do it more for flavour than as a means of preservation. And that makes it a shame more people don't think to reach for smoked fish as an effortless way to add gobs of flavour to the foods they love.

Grocers generally sell a wide variety of both types of smoked fish. Salmon, for example, can be found with different seasonings and cuts, including thinly sliced, thick slabs and whole sides. Smoked salmon is particularly good for making dips and pates. When doing so, look for cheaper packages labeled "trimmings," which are small pieces.

Hot smoked fish, such as trout and mackerel, are delicious flaked into salads or tossed with warm pasta, especially with a cream sauce. That's why Smoked Trout Noodle Soup isn't as strange as it sounds. Smoked trout has a meaty texture similar to chicken. And the rich, smoky flavour is the perfect match for a soup thick with noodles.

This recipe serves six. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1. In a large saucepan over medium-high, heat the oil. Add the garlic, carrots, onion, celery, peas, thyme and rosemary. Sauté for 5 minutes.

2. Add the chicken broth and bring to a simmer. Add the pasta and cook for 7 to 8 minutes, or until barely tender. Remove and discard the rosemary stem. Add the spinach and scallions and heat for 30 seconds. Season with salt and pepper.

3. Using a fork, flake and break up the trout into large bite-size chunks. Ladle the soup into serving bowls, then pile a bit of the trout in the centre of each.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 3 medium carrots, peeled and chopped
- 1 large yellow onion, diced
- 2 stalks celery, chopped
- 1 cup frozen peas
- 1 tbsp chopped fresh thyme
- Large sprig fresh rosemary
- 6 cups (1 1/2 quarts) chicken broth
- 2 cups elbow pasta
- 2 cups baby spinach
- 2 scallions, whites and greens, chopped
- Salt and ground black pepper
- 8-oz package smoked trout

Healthy eating

Choose it and lose it

ROSE REISMAN
for more, visit rosereisman.com

When burgers are loaded with cheese and bacon, you're just asking for an overload of all things unhealthy.

Wendy's Baconator

1,340 calories/ 91 gm fat/ 39 g saturated fat/2,840 mg sodium
You'll be lucky if you make it out of the restaurant without going into cardiac arrest after eating this burger's three patties, three cheese slices and nine bacon pieces.

Equivalent

Aside from being equivalent in fat to 10 Kobe style beef sliders from Milestones, Wendy's Baconator is also more than an entire day's worth of non-nutritional food.

Wendy's 1/2 Pound Double

880 calories/ 49 gm fat/ 21 g saturated fat/ 1,450 mg sodium
Splurge on half a pound of meat, which is close to half the calories, fat and sodium. That's still high for a meal but an improvement.

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metro PHOTO CHALLENGE

Catch customers in your wonderful web

That's out of site!

How to make the most of your online efforts

Prioritize your online domain and watch your customer base multiply. ISTOCK

Imagine you own a shoe store. It's in a busy shopping mall and has an inviting storefront with an attractive sign and window displays. You're almost guaranteed traffic — and probably sales, too, if you've got halfway decent products and prices.

Now picture that same shoe store on an out-of-the way country road with a grimy window and a crooked sign. It doesn't matter how great your footwear is. You probably won't have enough customers to stay in business.

Now ask yourself which of those two stores most resembles your company's website. In today's business world, your website is your storefront. It could be the main way customers are finding you and forming an impression about you.

A properly designed site is especially important if your business is growing and you are trying to improve your profile. But many small businesses don't devote a lot of effort to optimizing their site to ensure it's easily found via internet search engines and geared to help make sales.

Sites need improvement

"A well-designed site can help your company compete effectively with businesses that have deeper pockets and larger marketing budgets," says Michel Bergeron, Senior Vice President, Marketing and Public Affairs at the Business Development Bank of Canada.

Ranking high in search engine results is vital for your visibility online, Bergeron says. People rarely venture beyond the first page of a Google search result. Indeed, research indicates that websites appearing on the first page attract 90 per cent of the traffic.

Having a poorly optimized website can be a problem even if most of your sales don't happen over the Internet, says Mark Evans, a leading Canadian digital marketing and startup consultant.

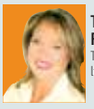
"The Internet is the way most people discover new products and services."

Happily, small businesses can use simple, inexpensive tools to help level the playing field with large businesses, Evans says. "A small, agile, creative company can be as effective online as a big company."

NEWS CANADA

The In-Credibility Factor

Name: Terry Beech
City: Vancouver
Age: 31
Occupation: Co-founder and CEO of HiretheWorld



THE IN-CREDIBILITY FACTOR
Teresa Kruze
life@metronews.ca

Terry Beech PROVIDED

As the youngest elected official ever in Canada (he was a city councillor for Nanaimo, B.C., when he was 18) Beech went on to co-create HiretheWorld. The online company is a marketplace for graphic design, attracting designers from 132 countries.

I knew I was on my way when... I started running into happy customers. I'd be driving downtown and see a restaurant storefront that was entirely designed on my site. I flew to Heathrow in London and I had my HiretheWorld shirt on. A lady ran up to me and told me that her company logo had been done on my site.

A large majority of our business is word-of-mouth. We want to grow, grow and grow. We want to expand internationally, and I'm excited about all the other entrepreneurial opportunities out there.

Action Plan

• Have an intense focus on value creation. Think about how you can make a person's life better rather than make another dollar. If you provide value to the consumer, then the money will come.

• Surround yourself with amazing people who love what they do. Being an entrepreneur is hard enough and you don't need to waste your time and energy with employees who are just adequate. If you want to be a rock star surround yourself with rock stars and your odds of success will exponentially increase.

• Do not develop a fear about what other people think of you, because it will prevent you from taking risks. I never regret the risk that went badly but I regret the risks I didn't take because I was playing it safe.

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*CIFFA, FITT Education Partner

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*Freight Forwarder
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*International Broker
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The classroom pet provides a lesson

Wild and wonderful. Foundations helping teachers pay for in-school pets that enrich the learning experience

Ssssso cool: Hailey Fink gets acquainted with a corn snake in the first grade classroom of Dawn Slinger in Farmington, Minn.

JIM MONE / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

For many children, their first pet is a virtual one.

Experts say many children who enter the first grade can play video games but few have a pet to play with. And teachers say that's a shame, considering how animals — real ones — can enrich a child's upbringing.

So for a quarter of a century, educators such as Dawn Slinger in Farmington, Minn., have paid out of their own pockets to provide one for their classrooms. Only in the past few years have groups stepped in to help with the financial burden.

Two years ago, Pets in the Classroom, a Maryland-based project from the non-profit foundation Pet Care Trust, began offering grants to U.S. and Canadian teachers in grades 1 through 8. The money can be used to buy starter pets, cages, food and other supplies. It issued its 10,000th grant this summer.

The $150 grants help offset the cost of the animal and its care, which helps teachers like Slinger who has been using her own money, said foundation executive director Steve King. Just an aquarium for a frog could cost more than a hundred dollars.

Teachers who apply for a second year or more get $50 for additional equipment, food and supplies.

Parents tell Slinger their children are inspired by the animals and are excited about learning, she said.

Slinger said that out of a class of children — hers last year had 26 — "maybe six will have pets at home, usually a cat or dog. Not many will have reptiles."

Since taking her class, "several students have got 10 hermit crabs or fish for their houses. One got a lizard and one is working on a snake."

The decision over what kind of pet to get lies with the teacher. Slinger chose hers because they fascinate children, their temperaments are right and they don't bother students with allergies or asthma, she said.

Concerns from parents over disease, allergies and exposure to waste have led to bans or limits on animals in some classrooms, although service animals are allowed in most schools. The Pet Care Trust leaves it to the teachers to know their students and parents, and King said teachers and students must follow cleanliness guidelines.

Among applications for first-time grants, the most popular choices for classroom pets were small mammals, like hamsters, guinea pigs, rats and rabbits, King said. That was followed by aquarium pets, reptiles and amphibians, then birds, he said.

Classroom pets also have been enlightening for some families. Heidi Keating said her eight-year-old son Wayne has been begging for a snake since he was in Slinger's class last year.

"First, I said absolutely no. Then Wayne said, 'Come see the snakes in class.' Even Grandma came. We petted it. I never knew they were soft. I am a little more open at this point," she said.

Keating said the family wants to encourage his interest, so they took Wayne to a reptile zoo for his birthday.

"It helps me get over my fears too," she said. "I am learning. I am honest about it, and he knows I am coming along with it. His (five-year-old) sister Quincy is too. When she had her face painted, she wanted a snake."

But until Wayne is a little older, he'll have to settle for the four-month-old basset hound puppy the Keatings got recently.

Classroom pets also can be incentives for good grades, as when some teachers allow students to care for the animals when school is out, King said. Slinger visits her classroom pets two or three times a week during summers and vacations.

As for the animals that don't return for another school year, that's a learning moment too, King said.

"Lifespan is part of the life lesson that comes with having a classroom pet," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Swimming in smart

Pet Care Trust first started introducing pets to classrooms through a joint venture with the Florida Aquarium in Tampa five years ago

- A classroom fish project gave participating teachers a 150-gallon aquarium, supplies and fish. Nearly 200 classrooms in the Tampa area got aquariums, and a similar program was started in Chicago.
- Slinger believes the cost is worth the experience for her students. She builds lessons around two miniature Russian tortoises, a fire-belly newt, tree frogs, three types of gecko, several hermit crabs, two small ball pythons, a corn snake and a 45-gallon tank of fish.
- Students observe and draw the animals, and research and write about them.

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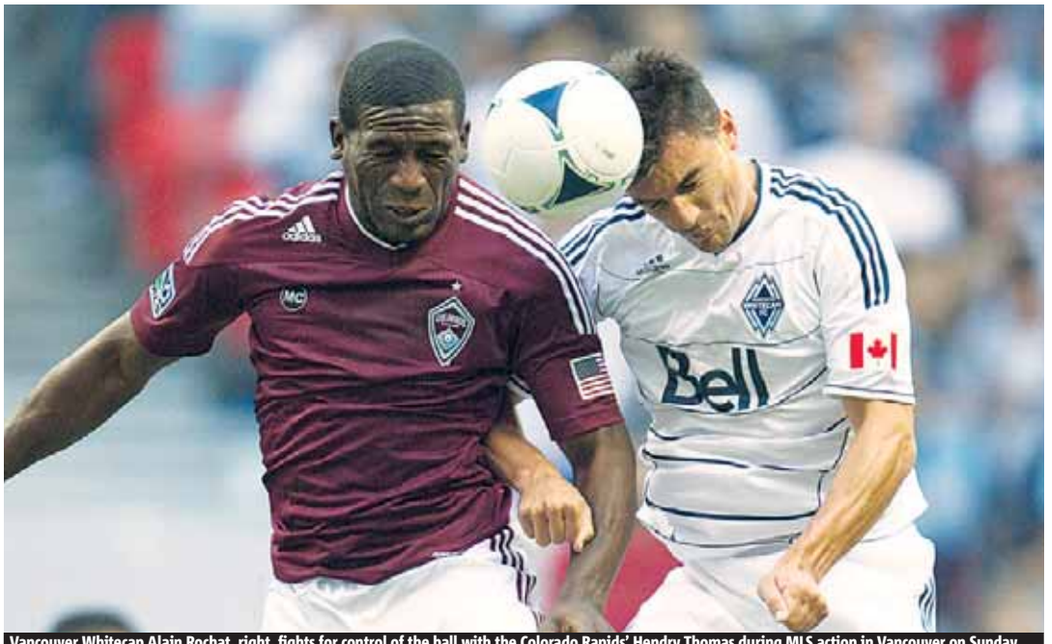
SPORTS 4



Vancouver Whitecap Alain Rochat, right, fights for control of the ball with the Colorado Rapids' Hendry Thomas during MLS action in Vancouver on Sunday. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Caps extend winless streak on late miscue

MLS. Colorado takes advantage of Vancouver's flub on loose ball to force draw

Alain Rochat's calm composure in front of the cameras and microphones defied the emotions that were churning inside him.

The Vancouver stalwart scored a goal but also committed a miscue that enabled the Colorado Rapids to come back and tie the Whitecaps 2-2 on Sunday.

"It was good for us that we could score early in the first half, but it was bad for us that they scored a few minutes to the end," said Rochat. "We take the point and try to move forward."

The Whitecaps (10-12-8) remained winless in six games but moved two points up on idle Dallas in the race for the fifth and final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

Second-half substitute Jamie Smith's goal in the 86th minute gave the Rapids the tie. Smith put home a shot from just inside the 18-yard box after the ball bounced a couple of times off the feet of Rochat and Young-Pyo Lee as they misplayed a loose ball.

With the goal, Colorado (9-18-3) avoided a 10th straight road loss that would have extended a club record.

Sunday's game

Whitecaps	Rapids
2	2

"It's disappointing not to have gotten all three points tonight," said Whitecaps coach Martin Rennie. "But at the same time, that might be the point that gets us into the playoffs. We have to build on that now. We have to get better performances."

The Rapids improved their playoff hopes slightly, moving within six points of Dallas and staying eight back of Vancouver.

Omar Cummings staked Colorado to a 1-0 first-half lead before Rochat and second-half substitute Kenny Miller replied for the Whitecaps in the second half — only to be disappointed in the end.

Rochat said the ball that led to Smith's tying goal could have been cleared easily, but his inexperience and discomfort in the central defender spot cost him.

"We do need to make sure we do the right things defensively," said Rennie. "There were some simple mistakes there that cost us, and both goals were very avoidable."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

Owners, union to discuss revenue

The NHL and NHL Players' Association are set to meet for the first time in nearly two weeks, but a discussion about a new collective bargaining agreement isn't on the agenda.

Instead, the sides will discuss the accounting for last season's hockey-related revenue when they sit down together on Monday morning in Toronto.

It's the first time they've met since Sept. 12, when each side tabled a proposal. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NFL

Ravens flying high after last-second field goal

Justin Tucker kicked a 27-yard field goal as time expired, giving the Baltimore Ravens a 31-30 victory over the New England Patriots on Sunday night in a rematch of the AFC championship game.

Torrey Smith, who was playing less than 24 hours after the death of his 19-year-old brother, had six catches for 127 yards and two touchdowns to help the Ravens avenge January's loss.

The victory was Baltimore's 12th straight at home. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ravens receiver Torrey Smith celebrates after he scores a touchdown. ROB CARR/GETTY IMAGES

Mobile sports

Cricket

Manny Pacquiao has made another concession in offering to take less money and relent top billing in order to entice Floyd Mayweather Jr. into the ring, yet boxing's long-awaited super-fight is still far from a sure thing.

Riders make good on stopping Cornish

Riders quarterback Darian Durant, left, and slotback Weston Dressler celebrate a second-half touchdown on Sunday in Regina. LIAM RICHARDS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Joe Lobendahn may have saved somebody's job.

The Saskatchewan Roughriders middle linebacker made five defensive tackles and a game-changing interception in a 30-25 win Sunday over the Calgary Stampeders.

He was also a key cog in a defensive scheme that held Calgary tailback Jon Cornish, the CFL's leading rusher, to 67 yards rushing as Saskatchewan (6-6) ended a four-game winning streak for second-place Calgary (7-5).

Roughriders head coach Corey Chamblin pledged earlier in the week to make personnel changes if Cornish ran for over 100 yards against Saskatchewan.

Quoted

"We didn't play very well collectively and I'm not taking anything away from Saskatchewan, because they did."

Stampeders coach John Hufnagel

"Joe is one of the guys that if you were in a dark alley and you saw Joe, you'd better run," said Chamblin. "He's tough. Joe is a tough-minded individual. You could see it in his eyes every day that all he wants to do is win."

But Lobendahn never lost focus.

With the game tied 13-13 in the third quarter, the five-year CFL veteran picked off Calgary quarterback Kevin Glenn on a short pass over the middle and returned the ball 16 yards deep into Stamps territory.

The play seemed to energize his teammates and helped set up a TD pass two plays later from Darian Durant to Weston Dressler. Saskatchewan never trailed from that point on.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Horoscopes

Aries
March 21 - April 20
Keep things simple this week because if you lose focus you will get confused and make it easy for your rivals to get the better of you – and no way should they ever be better than you.

Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Ever had the feeling that you are repeating yourself? If you get it today you must stand back from what you are doing and try to remember when and where it occurred before. It could save you money.

Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Think carefully about what you are about to do and don't do it unless you are absolutely sure it is right and proper. The planets indicate you won't lose out by being a bit more cautious than usual.

Cancer
June 22 - July 23
The most important thing now is that you are clear in your own mind about your feelings and motivations. Time spent thinking will not be time lost. On the contrary, it's an investment in your future success.

Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
It would be wise to compromise with loved ones and colleagues today, even if you honestly believe that you are right and they are wrong. They have the power to make life uncomfortable for you if they so choose.

Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You have important things to do and you cannot afford to waste time on small talk or idle chatter. You may have to be blunt, even rude, with people who seem unable to raise their sights as high as your own.

Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You are the most important person in your life and must always put yourself first. That might sound selfish but until you take care of your own needs and desires you won't be able to take care of others.

Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
What you learn today will in some small but important way change how you look at the world. Just because different people have different ways of seeing does not mean that one is right and one is wrong.

Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Make peace with rivals and enemies. You have more important things to do with your time than waste it on petty feuds. The good news? Someone you meet on your travels could turn out to be your new best friend.

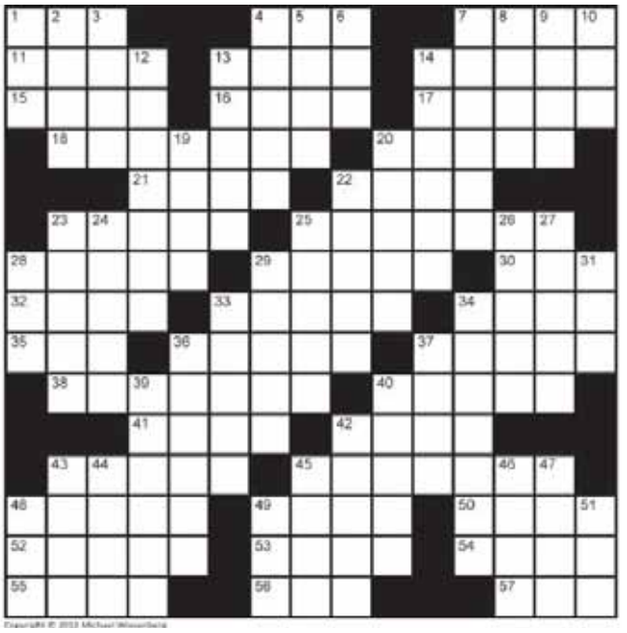
Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Stop complaining that things never go right for you and take charge of your own destiny. If you look for the pattern behind your existence you will find it, and once you have found it you will find happiness too.

Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You need to be a bit more active and assertive. You can, if you wish, sit back and let life come to you but at some point in the future you will look back and wish you had been more ambitious.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Someone you usually get along with will say something critical today and if you are smart you will act on their comments. When a true friend gives you a warning you should take it as a wake-up call. SALLY BROMPTON

Mishmash

BY MICHAEL WIESENBERG



Across
1. 747, 767, or 777
4. Cut grass
7. Dart here and there
11. Affirm confidently
13. ___ Scotia
14. Greek Mediterranean island that was the centre of the Minoan civilization
15. ___ noire: frightful thing
16. Couturier ___ Saint Laurent
17. Excessive hurry
18. Third-largest municipality in 25-Across (2 wds.)
20. He-man's antithesis
21. "Blueberry Hill" singer ___ Domino
22. Animals, to hunters
23. One-armed bandits, for short
25. Canada's first province, alphabetically
28. Cognizant of one's surroundings
29. Battle wounds
30. Big ___: large truck
32. "My name is ___, James ..."
33. Odin's mythology
34. Equine female
35. Before: poetic
36. Steams up
37. DSL need
38. 25-Across's northern member of the CFL
40. Bathroom floor worker
41. Wedding day exchanges (2 wds.)
42. "The Seven Deadly ___"
43. Toy bear named for a US president
45. Vancouver CFL team (2 wds)
48. "En ___!": fencer's alert
49. Apple covering
50. Tidy
52. Foreigner
53. Broadway award
54. Big truck
55. A person's equal
56. Tidbit for an aardvark
57. Bear's hibernation spot

Down
1. Boxing blow
2. Any time
3. Head: Fr.
4. Relocates
5. Done
6. Existed
7. The longest river in BC
8. Not more
9. Teeny
10. Golf stand
12. Sundance Film Festival founder Robert
13. Kremlin denials
14. Musical bells
19. Go out with
20. Bladed weapon
22. Drinking vessel
23. Said "#@$&!!"
24. Country roads
25. 43,560-square-foot units
26. Occupation
27. Broadcaster
28. "Honest ___": President Lincoln
29. Individual performances at a concert
31. Amethyst or tourmaline
33. Leonard ___: Star Trek's Spock portrayer
34. Beer that had the "I Am Canadian" ad campaign
36. Word after debt or guilt meaning "overwhelmed by"
37. BMW subcompact model taken over from Rover in 2000
39. Margot ___: Yellowknife-born Lois Lane portrayer in four Superman movies
40. Canadian actress and poker player Jennifer (Oscar-nominated for Bullets Over Broadway) or younger sister actress Meg
42. A bloodhound follows one
43. Dickens' A ___ of Two Cities
44. Great Lake
45. ___ the lookout for: watch for (2 wds.)
46. Require
47. Identical
48. "Mind the ___": London Underground warning
49. School fund-raising grp.
51. Frontier badge material

Friday's Crossword

What's online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

1			9					
6		3		2	4			5
	9	4	7					
						3	6	
4		2				8		9
	7	1						
					5	7	9	
8			3	6		2		1
					2			4

Friday's Sudoku

Today 18°/11° Partly cloudy
Tuesday 17°/10° Sunny
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Check the 14 day trend.
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